



MARTON-CUM-GRAFTON CE VA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Welcome to Class 1's Reception Year!

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic first week in Class 1!

Your children have been brilliant. We are very impressed with how they have been entering school in the mornings. They are doing a super job of settling in, adapting to new routines and getting to know new friends. Some mornings are bound to prove a little harder than others as tiredness settles in but we are ready with cuddles, smiles and distractions for your children and are more than happy to give a reassuring phone call if needed.

It has been lovely to see the familiar faces of those who were in our class for their pre-school year and we are delighted to welcome Parker and his family to our school.

Our learning this week

A large focus for our learning over the first few weeks will be centred on getting to know each other and learning and understanding the rules and routines that help to keep our class and school a safe and happy place to be.

We aim to create a warm and caring atmosphere in a stimulating environment. In order to achieve this, behaviour expectations will be made clear to the children in these first days and weeks and then reinforced through circle time discussions as the year progresses. In this busy environment we do expect children to do as they are asked and hope that you will support and reinforce this at home. This forms a significant part of our focus on PSED.

We have been thinking about the three school rules '**Be Respectful, Be Safe, Be Ready**'. In Class 1 we support these with the phrase '*Kind hands, Kind Feet, Kind words and voices*' and our together time 'ready to learn' expectations '*keeping hands and feet to ourselves, voices away, eyes looking and ears listening*'. We love to hear the children's news, questions and ideas but it can be rather tricky to do so if everyone speaks at once and so we are working very hard from the beginning to encourage raising a hand or putting up a 'thinking thumb' to show they are waiting for a turn to speak. They are making a super effort with this.

These first weeks will inevitably continue to focus on the three 'Prime Areas' which are shown below, in bold. We will use our early days in Reception to help us to learn more about each child so that we can plan the next steps of their learning journey in ways that will capture their interest. The children will be involved in focussed small group and one to one time, short whole class sessions and a lot of child initiated access of our provision areas. The opportunities we plan still aim to cover the seven areas of learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage:

- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)**
- **Physical Development (PD)**
- **Communication and Language (C & L)**
- Literacy (Lit)

ASPIRE • BELIEVE • ACHIEVE

- Mathematics (Ma)
- Expressive Art and Design (EAD)
- Understanding the World (UW)

Staffing in Class 1

Mrs Williams is the class teacher all day Monday and Tuesday, Wednesday morning and Thursday morning. **Miss Wilkinson** is the class teacher on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons and all day Friday and is joined by **Mrs Taylor** who teaches PE in the morning. We are supported by Early Years Teaching Assistants **Miss Wilkinson** and **Mrs Garcia**.

We are very lucky to have highly experienced, passionate and well-qualified staff in our team and are also delighted to welcome **Mrs Smith** who joins us as she begins her Graduate Teacher Training with North Star; it's fantastic to have an extra pair of hands with us on into the next half term.

Working Together

We know that it can feel very frustrating when you ask your child what they have been doing at school only to be told 'nothing'. Today (Friday) your child should have brought home a log in invitation to 'Class Dojo'. This is an online tool to connect school and home. On Class Dojo there will be updates on our Class Story each week and we hope these will go some way to giving you an insight into your child's experiences and time in school. There will also be additional newsletters and diary dates across the year that will be sent out via email and will also be printed and displayed on our notice board.

Please also watch out for a letter in the next few weeks inviting you to stay and play with us in Class 1.

Communication between home and school is so important, please do let us know if you have any concerns or questions. If you do not collect your child and are unable to come into school to see us then please send a note or email, or ring the office and leave a message so we can get back to you.

Please also look out for the 'a note from home' slips (available from our entrance board), please take these and fill them in with your child's interests, experiences and achievements before returning them to us in school to contribute to your child's Learning Journey. These will also occasionally be sent home in your child's bookbag for you and can be as full or as brief as you like.

We look forward to developing positive relationships and to sharing your child's achievements with you and of course to ensuring that your child enjoys their time in Reception.

Many thanks for your support in this first week of Reception Class, we wish you a very happy weekend.

Best wishes from

Mrs Williams, Miss Wilkinson and the Class 1 team